



In September 2001, then Governor Mike Johanns created the Community Corrections Working Group to “plan a way out” of the impending population crisis without constructing a new prison. The Working Group was mandated to propose policies to control the prison population, maintain and enhance justice, reduce taxpayer cost, and ensure public safety. In December 2002, the Working Group developed a proposal which became Legislative Bill 46 (2003), a comprehensive piece of legislation which created the Community Corrections Council and established a statutory framework to promote the use of community based alternatives to incarceration and fund the services through the collection of fees from offenders sentenced to probation.

## 2003

### January-

- LB46 introduced to meet the need of identifying appropriate alternatives to centralized incarceration by proposing creation of the Community Corrections Council

### May-

- LB46 passed, allowing the Community Corrections Council to be created

### August-

- Linda Krutz appointed as Executive Director of the Council

### September-

- Council members appointed

### October-23

- Standards & Community Corrections plan for development and use of Community Correction facilities and programs
- Begin work on Sentencing guidelines with assistance from Vera Institute of Technology

### December-12

- Adoption of Nebraska Council plans and standards
- Begin negotiation with Vera for continued services to support the creation of community based treatment programs

## 2004

### February-12

- Legislation proposed through LB1253 to merge Probation Administration and Parole Administration

### April-23

- Judicial Advisory Committee meets and creates sentencing guidelines for felony drug offenses

### May-14

- Application for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMSHA) grant. If funds were granted the program is to provide adult offenders within our criminal justice system with community-based substance abuse assessment, treatment and recovery support services by building on current initiatives.
- Probation Administrator submitted proposal for specialized drug population for target population identification
- Probation and Parole officer survey completed
- Drug sentencing grid for Sentencing Guidelines introduced
- Parole fee Expansion Proposal

### June-11

- Council forwards Sentencing Guidelines to the Supreme Court with the caveat that they would need to be modeled with data to make certain they work to reduce prison population

### August-13

- Pending Proposals for utilization of Probation and Parole fees
- Justice Substance Abuse Team, JSAT (formerly the Substance Abuse Treatment Task Force) adopted under the Council as a formal committee

**(2004 continued)****November-12**

- Felony Offender Drug Treatment Model Draft
- Possible grants through Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

**December-17**

- Offender Treatment Advisory Groups Final Recommendations
- Summary of Adult Probation Profile of the Felony Drug Offender

**2005****January-12**

- LB538 was introduced on behalf of the Council which formerly included Problem-Solving Court programs as part of community corrections and added a member from Health and Human Services
- LB539 was introduced to appropriate \$5.3 million to Council for Substance Abuse

**February-18**

- Council approves Probation's plan to develop the Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision (SSAS) program to be paid by programming fees
- Standardized model adoption by Supreme Court by court rule
- Problem-Solving Courts proposal for funding of six new courts

**May-13**

- Current Legislation included LB425, the main appropriations bill. Included in the bill is \$200,000 funding for a Methamphetamine Study under the Council, funding for substance abuse treatment of felony offenders in the amount of \$2.5 million over two years, as well as funding for 32 new probation officer positions.

**(2005 continued)**

- One time disbursement of \$300,000 from Uniform Data Analysis Fund to Law Enforcement Training Center
- Parole Utilization Program fees proposal in which Parole proposed to partner with Probation in utilizing the SSAS program. Parole and Probation will work out a reimbursement plan where Parole programming fees will be used to reimburse Probation for SSAS services
- Methamphetamine Study approved to be conducted by the University of Nebraska-Omaha
- Development of a process for grants

**August-19**

- Vera Institute of Justice memo regarding the Probation and Parole strategic planning meeting. This was the first time in Nebraska's criminal justice history that Probation and Parole came together to plan. Four areas of consensus arising from the meeting: 1) collaboration needs to occur to utilize the most effective and efficient method of offender supervision in the community; 2) community corrections should be defined as it specifically relates to Nebraska; 3) offenders' risks and needs should be appropriately assessed, and 4) data sharing strategies shall be developed
- Committee created for Fee-for-Service Treatment Voucher Program (Voucher Program) to establish the policies and procedures for the program
- SSAS amend proposal monetary support for crisis services
- Governor approves LB538 for appropriation of \$2.5 million for felony Voucher Program funding new probation positions with SSAS
- The Council was chosen by the Legislature to coordinate the Methamphetamine Treatment Study

**December-2**

- After SSAS pilot programs are implemented the next steps include the expansion of pilots, expanding the target populations, completing detailed outcome studies,

**(2005 continued)**

connecting all forms of supervision including intensive supervision probation, driving under the influence programming, and broadening the scope of specialized programming to domestic violence and sex offenders

- Initial Draft of Methamphetamine Study completed by the University of Nebraska-Omaha and presented to Council. Key recommendations for treatment of offenders throughout the justice system and an effective treatment strategy were outlined

**December-16**

- Parole will partner with Probation for intensive SSAS training in January 2006
- Specialized Court start up in Dawson County

**December-30**

- Probation fee proposal for costs of a six-week intensive SSAS program training
- Request utilize probation program cash fund monies to support problem-solving court start-ups
- Supreme Court officially approved standardized model

**2006****January-4**

- Intensive SSAS training begins. Training includes evidence based practices, offender management, criminal thinking and substance abuse/behavioral health treatment

**February-17**

- Implementation of Day and Evening Reporting Centers, now identified as Reporting Centers

**(2006 continued)**

- Design and Process for the Voucher Program
- Implementation of the Standardized Model
- Vera continues assistance to the Council through a grant from a private trust
- Brashear, Council Chair, announces the results of League of Municipalities' "The Nebraska Poll", which included questions regarding methamphetamine
- Probation Administrator and State Court Administrator requested the Council approve the spending of fees for drug court start-ups
- Probation enters into an inter-local with Midwest Nebraska Adult Drug Court- Dawson County and Northeast Nebraska Adult Drug Court- Madison County.
- Probation and Parole signed Memorandum of Understanding for the coordination of work for SSAS
- LB 1258 introduced to appropriate funding to the Council for community corrections programs
- LB 1257 introduced to add at large members to the Council and create a grant program for local community corrections programs
- LB 274CA introduced as the Constitutional Amendment that would change separation of powers provisions to permit supervision of individuals by the Judicial and Executive branches.
- LB 273CA introduced as the Constitutional Amendment that would change separation of powers provision to permit the Legislature to create boards and similar bodies with voting members of the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches

**March-16**

- SSAS programs are started
- First offender placed on SSAS program

**(2006 continued)**

- First voucher authorized

**April-15**

- The Legislature approved funding for Problem-Solving Courts, Reporting Centers, treatment (expansion of the Voucher Program), and the Metropolitan Recidivism Reductions Center plan
- Provisions of LB1257 were approved

**May-19**

- Standards for Reporting Centers. Reporting Centers are available to all probationers even though it is case managed by, coming under the direction of, SSAS
- The first comprehensive data analysis of the Sentencing Guidelines for felony drug offenses was completed
- Offender Selection Worksheet (OSW) designed as a targeting tool to identify offenders appropriate for Intensive Supervision Probation (ISP). It has not yet been normalized or validated but is projected to be so in February 2007
- US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance is accepting applications for funding under the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program
- LB1257 amended to LB1113. Reentry courts were stricken. Two at large members will be added to the Council per Governor appointment. The Council has statutory authorization to create a grant program to entities including local governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and behavioral health services which will support the intent of the Community Corrections Act. (No funding received for a grant program)
- LR274CA adopted and will be on the voting ballot for public approval. This amendment creates an exception to a separation of powers clause to allow boards and commissions to have voting members from any branch of government

**(2006 continued)**

- LB273CA did not advance.
- LB1258 was amended into the mainline appropriations bill for a total of \$4,375,000 of new general fund appropriations. New general funds are \$1,080,000 for treatment funding, \$2,000,000 for Specialized Court, \$1,250,000 for Reporting Centers, and \$45,000 for the Recidivism Reduction Study.
- Preliminary draft of statewide implementation and sustainability of problem-solving courts. Currently, specialized courts are in eight out of twelve judicial districts and another district's specialized court is in the planning stages.
- Draft scope of implementation plan for the recidivism reduction center

**June-23**

- The Probation Administrator presented the budget for the Reporting Centers
- Problem-Solving Courts propose budgets for personnel, expansion and development of new programs
- Specialized Courts will be required to collect data so program evaluations may be conducted

**September-22**

- Proposal for expansion of Voucher Program. The expansion includes: 1) offenders receiving Parole as of September 1, 2006, who have an order for substance abuse evaluation or treatment; 2) felony Probation or Problem-Solving Court offenders unable to remain drug/alcohol free; 3) Class I Misdemeanor Drug Offense; and 4) DUI III Offense of Felony DUI
- Probation requested an evaluation by Vera to ensure quality programming and evidence-based programming across their entire system
- First Reporting Staff hired



**(2006 continued)**

- Justice Behavioral Health Committee, JBHC (formerly known as JSAT) draft guidelines including membership, subcommittees, open meetings, missions, vision, charge statement and processes

**October-20**

- Vera Analysis of Staffing Patterns and Work duties draft
- Impact of proposed Sentencing Guidelines Grid
- Draft of District Court Judicial Survey on Sentencing and Community Corrections
- Strategic Capital Facilities Master Plan presented by Bob Houston, Director of Correctional Services

**December-15**

- Grant support requested for statewide Justice Mental Health Collaboration Project
- Parole working on interlocal agreement with Probation to establish payment system
- Consensus of Nebraska Supreme Court that all Problem-Solving Courts, except the Family Dependency Drug Courts, be required to participate in inter-local agreements with Probation in order to access general funds.
- Presentation of the final report of the UNO Recidivism Reduction Center Report

**2007****February-12**

- The Council is selected by Pew Charitable Trusts to receive technical support from Vera in support of community based programs

**March-16**

- Vera conducted an evaluation of the Intensive Supervision Probation (ISP) process and impact from September 2006 to January 2007. Results showed a favorable

**(2007 continued)**

impression of the ISP Program within the justice system.

- Grant request for Bureau of Justice Assistance Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program
- Final report of District Court Judicial Survey on Sentencing and Community Corrections
- Petition with Supreme Court for adoption of voluntary sentencing guidelines for felony drug offenders

**August-31**

- Sentencing Guidelines denied by Supreme Court, discussion rendered
- Vera begins contract negotiations for the Probation and Parole Services Study
- Vera prepares scope of the Probation and Parole Services Study

**September-7**

- First Council Newsletter published

**December-14**

- Vera presents Final Report of Probation and Parole Services to the Council

**2008****February**

- Vera leads two day retreat for the Council



